



2300 Rhode Island Ave NE, Ste. 202 Washington, DC 20018

202-808-9050

www.riamainstreet.org

Zoning Commission for the District of Columbia  
441 4<sup>th</sup> St NW, Ste 200-S  
Washington DC 20001

February 5, 2015

RE: CASE NO. 14-18 (Mid-City Financial Corp – 1<sup>st</sup> Stage PUD & Related Map Amendment @ Square 3953

Dear Zoning Commission Officers and Staff,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in front of you tonight. I am speaking today as the executive director of the Friends of Rhode Island Avenue NE and the Rhode Island Avenue Main Street program, in reference to Zoning Amendment Case 14-18.

The Rhode Island Avenue NE Main Street program exists for the purpose of supporting and enhancing the commercial corridor of Rhode Island Avenue NE. In our day-to-day activities, we provide access to façade improvement grant funds and educational opportunities for small business owners, as well as a variety of corridor design improvements and promotional events intended to attract more visitors and new businesses to the corridor. Equally importantly, the Rhode Island Avenue Main Street program exists to give the residents of the surrounding neighborhood the opportunity to have a voice in types of businesses and the direction of development that we want to see in our community. Community members have spoken loudly and clearly when they say they want more neighborhood-serving retail and dining options. They want a more vibrant and attractive commercial corridor. Based on various urban planning studies that have been conducted for Rhode Island Avenue NE, including the Rhode Island Avenue NE Small Area Plan, developed in 2011 by the office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Development, it is clear that in order to attract and support the types of businesses that our neighbors have indicated they want, we must encourage and support appropriate amendments to the current zoning map.

By approving this zoning amendment, the entire project will not only create tremendous new opportunity for retail, dining, and other neighborhood amenities, but it will also provide opportunities for new jobs, and a much-needed boost in residential density for the entire corridor. Over the last several decades, Mid-City Financial Corporation has demonstrated their commitment to the community. Our organization has also been impressed by the efforts that Mr. Meers and the Mid-City Financial team have undertaken to reach out to, and work with, the current tenant's association, the immediate and surrounding civic associations, and the ANCs of the immediate and surrounding areas.

On behalf of Rhode Island Avenue NE Main Street, we support this proposed amendment, as it is congruent with the recommendations from DMPED and Office of Planning, and when developed, will contribute to an increase in residential density that will help us attract the types of retailers that our community wants to support. Thank you again for the opportunity to speak tonight I look forward to your decision.

Best regards,

Kyle Todd, Executive Director  
Rhode Island Avenue Main Street  
kyle@riamainstreet.org

ZONING COMMISSION  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.14-18  
EXHIBIT NO.86